

REMARKS

I. Information Disclosure Statement

The Applicant brings to the Examiner's attention the Information Disclosure Statement filed with this Reply. The Applicant also brings to the Examiner's attention related co-pending patent applications 10/724,983, 10/724,984, 10/724,985 and 10/724,986, each of which was filed on November 30, 2003, from which the references listed in the Information Disclosure Statement were cited.

The specification has also been amended to reference the related co-pending patent applications to provide notice pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and MPEP 2001.06(b). This amendment is not an admission that the above-referenced applications include information that is material to patentability of the claims in the instant case; rather, the undersigned provides this amendment consistent with his duty of candor and good faith to the Patent and Trademark Office.

II. Drawings

Formal replacement drawings are submitted for acceptance by the Examiner.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections And Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the finding that claims 4-6, 10 and 12 would be allowable over the art of record if amended into independent form. Claims 4 and 10 have been amended into independent form and include the limitations of original claims 1 and 2. Claims 5-9 have been amended to depend from claim 4, and claims 11 and 12 have been amended to depend from

claim 10. Because all dependent claims now depend from allowable independent claims, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

IV. Conclusion

The Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance in due course.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees and credit any overpayment associated with this response to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 501432, ref: 783403-605021.

Respectfully submitted,

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